



# The American Society for Clinical Nutrition, Inc.

THE CLINICAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

## The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition



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December 20, 2004

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 425A  
200 Independence Avenue, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Thompson:

The American Society for Clinical Nutrition (ASCN) encourages the FDA to act promptly on the General Mills Whole Grain Claims Citizens petition filed on May 11, 2004 (DK/H 2004-0223CP1). This petition defines the use of the terms "good" and "excellent" sources of whole grains for use on food packages.

One of the recommendations of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee is to consume more whole grain foods. The benefits of consuming more whole grains are widely recognized. However, we know that there is a significant gap between the recommended amounts and actual consumption as consumers are confused about how to identify whole grain foods in the marketplace. Uniform definitions for "good" and "excellent" sources of whole grain will give consumers an important tool needed to identify foods that contain significant amounts of whole grain.

We believe prompt action on this petition will allow consumers to take advantage of the important dietary advice to increase the consumption of whole grain foods. We hope that FDA will commence action in advance of the January release of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines, followed shortly thereafter by the release of the revised Food Guide Pyramid.

Sincerely,

*Samuel Klein*

Samuel Klein, MD  
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9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998

ASCN • Telephone 301/634-7110 • Fax 301/634-7350 • E-mail: [secretar@ascn.faseb.org](mailto:secretar@ascn.faseb.org) • Internet: <http://www.ascn.org>  
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